

CLAIMS

1. The use of nanoscale metal soaps with particle diameters in the range from 10 to 300 nm for the production of cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical preparations.

- 5 2. The use claimed in claim 1, characterized in that metal soaps corresponding to formula (I):



(I)

- 10 in which R^1CO is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, optionally hydroxysubstituted acyl group containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms and X is an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal, aluminium or zinc and n is a number corresponding to the valency of X,
are used.

- 15 3. The use claimed in claims 1 and/or 2, characterized in that nanoscale metal soaps obtained by

(a) dissolving the starting materials in a suitable solvent under supercritical or near-critical conditions,

- (b) expanding the fluid mixture through a nozzle into a vacuum, a gas or
20 a liquid and

(c) simultaneously evaporating the solvent
are used.

4. The use claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that nanoparticles encapsulated in a protective colloid are used.

- 25 5. The use claimed in claim 4, characterized in that polyvinyl alcohol or polyethylene glycol are used.

6. The use claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the metal soaps are used in quantities of 0.1 to 5% by weight, based on the preparations.

- 30 7. The use claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that

the metal soaps are used for the production of hair treatment preparations.

8. The use claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the metal soaps are used for the production of skin treatment preparations.